

April 28, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the process by which the St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) works with COVID-19 patients to identify those who were in close contact with the patient and thus were exposed to the virus. DPH then reaches out to those contacts to notify them of the potential exposure. Guidance and precautionary measures are given, which include monitoring their symptoms closely, staying at home, and continuing to practice good hand hygiene. Contact tracing is important because it helps quickly identify potential new cases and, more importantly, prevents further spread of COVID-19.

The process of contact tracing also supports those suspected or confirmed of being infected. Individuals are provided educational materials to understand their risk and given direction on how best to protect their family and others who were not exposed. They are also connected with medical professionals who can clarify instructions and answer questions related to COVID-19.

DPH is currently hiring contact tracers. This is a specialized skillset for those with inquisitive and investigative personalities. Those interested should also have a general understanding of basic medical terminology, infectious disease processes, and patient confidentiality laws. Excellent interpersonal and interviewing skills are also beneficial. For more information on working as a contact tracer or to apply for the position, visit: <http://ow.ly/nXqu50zqOmm>.

Guidance for Public Pools

As warmer weather approaches, please remember the current Stay at Home Order lists the following as prohibited: "activities regarding places of public amusement, whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to locations with water parks." That means that the operation of public swimming pools is prohibited.

Executive Stay at Home Order, and the specifics that it addresses, is available on www.stlcorona.com.

When the Stay at Home Order is lifted and recreational facilities begin to re-open, additional guidance for operators regarding necessary modifications required to keep patrons safe will be provided. CDC advisories related to social distancing, staying home while sick, routine disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizer use, and other personal protection guidance should be operational considerations for pools and recreational facilities moving forward.

Public pool owners/operators that have questions or concerns should contact poools.dph@stlouisco.com.

Dignified Transfer Center

The Dignified Transfer Center is currently accommodating seven decedents. Four additional individuals have been through the center and transported to a crematorium or funeral home, at the request of family. To date, eleven individuals have entered the Dignified Transfer Center.

Contact Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information.



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